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NEWS RELEASE

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**TWO PERSONS SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD AND FOR
LYING TO FEMA INVESTIGATORS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that LAWRENCE H. WILLIAMS, 25, and TRUDY M. DAVIS, 44, both of Sacramento, California were each sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. for making false claims for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance. Each was sentenced to four months in prison.

The cases were investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and United States Postal Inspection Service.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud, and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force-chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division-includes the FBI, the United States Inspectors General community, the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, and others.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the cases, on April 13, 2007 WILLIAMS pled guilty to two counts of making false claims to an agency of the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), two counts of theft of United States property, and making a false statement to FEMA for emergency disaster aid. WILLIAMS also pled guilty to making a false statement to Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General about his false demand upon FEMA for emergency disaster money. WILLIAMS stole \$7,568.76 of funds allocated for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief victims.

WILLIAMS, who has a criminal history of drug trafficking, was also ordered to pay full restitution and a \$600 special assessment. After completion of his jail sentence, WILLIAMS will be on federal supervised release for 36 months.

DAVIS stole \$5,338 of funds allocated for disaster relief. DAVIS pled guilty to two counts of making false claims to FEMA and one count of theft of United States property.

In imposing the four month federal prison sentence, Judge Burrell noted the defendant had a criminal history of fraud and theft related convictions, she was already receiving assistance from the state of California when she claimed to be a displaced Hurricane Katrina victim, and she was on probation for a misdemeanor forgery conviction when she made her false claims. DAVIS was also ordered to pay full restitution and \$300 special assessment. After completion of her jail sentence, DAVIS will be on federal supervised release for 36 months.

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